

Dear Friends,

The last time I wrote to you was during the holiday season when South Florida was in the midst of a cold snap! You took time from your busy schedules to learn about Biscayne National Park, including the special qualities that Congress recognized when they designated it a unit of the national park system. We also talked about what a general management plan is — a road map for the park through the next 15 to 20 years — and how we go about creating it. I am writing again to let you know our progress and to invite your comment.

As a first step in developing that plan, you shared with us your vision of Biscayne National Park - — what you think about it now and what you want it to be in the future. You provided us with a wealth of information, and we are grateful for your input. Many of you showed up at our five public meetings, and many more of you sent us letters, cards, and e-mail. You told us that “the remote quality of the keys should be preserved” and that you “value natural beauty and picturesque views.” You want us to “provide more access for those without boats,” “keep natural resources as close to pristine as possible while allowing public use,” and to “provide better protection of shipwrecks.” There is a summary of your comments in this newsletter

With this information in mind our next task is to work with you to describe various zones in the park. These zones are known as “management prescription” areas. Each management prescription area is slightly different — the permissible level of impacts to resources is different, and visitors enjoy different experiences and have opportunities for different discoveries. Because of this, each area has a unique “feel.” To start us off, the park staff and planning team have described five theoretical areas for you to consider. The five areas range from the most developed to the most pristine.

Once we have described the various management prescriptions, we will then decide which of these areas will be used at Biscayne National Park and where they will be located. The planning schedule found on **page 12** outlines the next steps in developing the general management plan. For more information, you can contact the park at 305-230-1144 or log onto the Biscayne National Park home page at www.nps.gov/bisc.

Let’s remember that this is a long and important process and your involvement is critical. Please look at each of the management prescriptions we have described and tell us what you like and what you would like changed. Please tell us if something is confusing. Finally, please tell us where, if anywhere, each management prescription should be in the park. We have provided a map of the park to make it easier for you to draw where the areas should be located. Remember that the general management plan will guide the direction of the park for the next 15-20 years, regardless of who is managing the park, so it is important that you make sure your voices are heard now. There are a variety of ways you can communicate with us. We will hold public meetings on September 19 and 20 that are described on **page 12**, you can complete the enclosed card and return it to us, or you can send your ideas to us via e-mail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Linda Canzanelli
Superintendent

What We Heard From You

Approximately 5,000 newsletters in English and Spanish were distributed in January 2001 to announce the beginning of the general management planning process for Biscayne National Park. Five public meetings, attended by approximately 175 individuals, were held in January. Meetings also were conducted with park staff. More than 2,100 responses received from the first newsletter, public meetings, and the planning page at the park's web site indicate that there is great interest in the future of the park. A set of the responses we received from you is available for review at the Dante Fascell Visitor Center, 9700 S.W. 328th Street, Homestead, Florida.

The following italicized (quoted) and bulleted (paraphrased) comments summarize what we heard from you.

Natural Resources

I greatly value the purpose of Biscayne National Park. I value the natural quiet that can be experienced in an area surprisingly close to a large urban area. I appreciate the unspoiled mangrove islands, which have virtually disappeared from South Florida's east coastline elsewhere. Also, the ability to experience living coral reefs and abundant wildlife is a treasure to me. (Comment from March 2001.)

- Manage resources holistically as part of the greater South Florida and Caribbean ecosystems.
- Establish an aquatic preserve that supports a sustainable ecosystem, including mangrove forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and diverse fauna and flora.
- Attain excellent water quality.
- Restore historical freshwater flow into the bay.
- Establish buffer zones around the park to enhance and protect the park's resources.
- Set directions for the long-term management of Biscayne Bay through the understanding of global climate changes, impacts of local industrial development, and possible unforeseen impacts from the Everglades restoration.
- Preserve natural quiet.
- Maintain the natural beauty.
- Expand park boundaries to include Manatee Bay, Barnes and Card Sounds, the model lands, and Linderman Keys, and to protect the park from urban encroachment.
- Protect the integrity of air quality, ecological diversity, and coral biodiversity.

Cultural Resources

In planning for the future of the park, we must consider that humans were part of this environment, especially when one considers that some of the evidence dates back over 1,000 years, and contributes to the "natural history" of the park. (Comment from March 2001.)

- Promote use of underwater trails on shipwrecks, archeological sites, and reefs for education and interpretation purposes.
- Protect, restore, and maintain park cultural resources and historic landscapes.
- Research the contributions of diverse populations to the human history of South Florida within the greater Caribbean context.
- Involve local populations in interpreting and handing down cultural traditions significant to the history of the park.
- Make the public aware of the importance and potential loss of vestiges of underwater cultural resources.

Education

I see the park being an outdoor classroom for the hundreds of thousands of students in Miami-Dade and surrounding counties. Every aspect of the park, especially its historical, cultural, and environmental treasures, will be used in teaching students valuable lessons about human impact on habitat.(Comment from January 2001.)

- Enhance environmental education opportunities in Biscayne National Park to expose the public to the significance and value of the marine ecosystem and how a healthy ecosystem contributes to the survival of the planet.
- Provide more educational outreach to boaters.
- Provide more hands-on education including outreach programs into nontraditional communities.
- Incorporate South Florida ecosystem issues into school curricula and establish a youth education facility.
- Work with diverse cultures to instill a sense of stewardship and ownership in the park and to recognize their many contributions to the region.
- Provide an educational facility at the north end of the park. “Go where the people are.”
- Make the public more aware of the significant resources at their doorstep.
- Distribute park information at more locations around Miami, at park access points like marinas, and on the islands in the park.

Public Access

I hope that the park remains as simple and beautiful as it is today so that my children can enjoy it as much as I have. (Comment from February 2001.)

- Improving opportunities to enjoy pristine natural areas close to major urban centers is important.
- Protect the park but still allow as much use and access as possible.
- Reduce overcrowding in the park.
- Improve access for landlocked visitors to resources on the keys.
- Keep restrictions on park use to a minimum.

Boating

For many of us living in Miami, the enjoyment of the water is why we are here. We need to protect the park's assets, but still keep it as open as possible. (Comment from January 2001.)

- Establish speed limits for motorized watercraft in some areas of the park to provide tranquility, visitor safety, and resource protection.
- Establish some no-wake zones and no-motor zones in the park.
- Limit the size of vessels.
- Establish kayak and canoe trails.
- Regulate commercial shipping routes to protect the ecosystem.
- Retain the Columbus Day Regatta

Fish Resources

I especially value the coral reefs as for me they represent a dream world with their myriad colored fish. Reefs are essential for the rearing of many juvenile fish and our ocean is sadly depleted by overfishing. (Comment from March 2001.)

- Protect fishing rights.
- Protect important breeding habitat for fish populations.
- Continue no-take areas for lobster.
- Enforce recreational fishing regulations.
- Ban all commercial harvesting of natural resources.

Operations

The original joys of the park will only be multiplied by the skilled care-taking of the dedicated. (Comment from March 2001.)

- Take a leadership role in sustainable facility design, recycling, and use of alternate sources of energy.
- Review regulation policies.
- Hire more rangers to educate the public, enforce regulations, and protect resources.
- Spend less money on administrative functions and public facilities and spend more in the field where public, visitors, and law enforcement interact.
- Restrict man-made development.

Stiltsville

I feel that Stiltsville is one of the most unique parts of Biscayne Bay and should be left alone. (Comment from March 2001.)

- Leave Stiltsville as it is; let leaseholders remain.
- Remove Stiltsville.

- Adapt Stiltsville for public use.

Partnerships

I really appreciate the efforts of the Park Service and all the staff in recognizing the need for a combined effort by all. If our objective is to keep Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park pristine for future generations to grow and learn by, we must all do our part in maintaining a pollution-free, litter-free, chemical-free environment. (Comment from March 2001.)

- Protect park values by collaborating with other agencies, communities, counties in the region, and similar ecosystems around the globe.
- Work with surrounding landowners to avoid urban sprawl and degradation of the bay ecosystem.
- Work with local communities to provide ecological education opportunities, coordinate appropriate recreation activities, and promote awareness of resource sensitivity and protection needs.
- Coordinate with land and water management jurisdictions to develop and enforce consistent regulations.
- Work with local communities and private entities to provide transportation to and within the park.

Management Prescriptions

The following draft management prescriptions are a first step in looking at various ways to manage the park's resources and visitor experiences in different parts of the park. Eventually, some or all of these prescriptions will become the park's management areas. These prescriptions have three parts. First, they define desired resource conditions to be achieved and maintained over time. Second, they describe the variety of visitor experiences to be enjoyed. Finally, they identify the management activities and facilities that would be appropriate for maintaining those desired conditions. Management prescriptions provide the foundation for decision making in the park and form the core of the general management plan.

The park has prepared these draft prescriptions in response to public scoping comments and an analysis of the park's purpose and mission. To fulfill its mission, the park preserves and protects a rare combination of terrestrial, marine, and amphibious life in a tropical setting of great natural beauty for the education, inspiration, recreation, and enjoyment of present and future generations (see newsletter #1). These prescriptions include management area concepts ranging from developed to pristine. Please consider these concepts and determine if they represent an effective and comprehensive range of conditions and experiences you would like to see in Biscayne National Park. Think about where these prescriptions might best be designated within the park or, if you are not familiar with the park, what percentage of the park should be designated under which management areas.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS – BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Management Actions and Facilities
Visitor Services/Park Administration Area	<p>This area would provide for a high level of visitor activity and administrative operations. The area would be modified for visitor access and park operations in a way that aesthetically blends with the natural and cultural environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elements of the natural and cultural environment would remain. 2. Sights and sounds of human activity would frequently supplant the sights and sounds of nature. 3. There would be tolerance for resource impacts. 4. Development for park administrative facilities would occur only on previously disturbed sites. Some development for visitor access and activities might occur. The area would not be near sensitive natural or cultural resources if such resources could not be adequately protected. 5. The significance and vulnerability of cultural resources would be evaluated, and appropriate management actions would be determined. Cultural resources might be stabilized and hardened (protecting archeological values from unauthorized artifact removal or other destructive activities) to permit visitor access or considered for adaptive reuse. 	<p>Visitors would have opportunities to receive orientation and information, interact with park staff, and experience and learn about park resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate visitor activities could include sightseeing, walking, recreational fishing, boating, camping, participating in educational activities, and interacting with resources. 2. Visitors would see native flora and fauna and might see cultural resources. 3. Interpretive and educational opportunities would be greatest in this area. Visitor activities might be self-directed and/or visitors might use interpretive services to plan their activities. Visitor education could be self-directed or structured. 4. Interpretive services would be offered in multiple languages. 5. Special events could be allowed in this area with appropriate permits. 6. The probability of encountering others would be high. Visitors would experience a modified environment that accommodates high levels of use and minimizes further resource impacts. 7. Facilities and services would enhance opportunities to experience and understand park resources and provide an orientation to the park. 8. Visitor activities might be highly regulated to preserve elements of the natural and cultural environment, allow access to cultural resources, prevent visitor conflicts, and enhance public safety. 9. Vessel type and size might be restricted to enhance resource protection and preserve the desired visitor experience. 10. Commercial visitor services and facilities would be appropriate in this area. 	<p>Management actions would focus on managing the higher levels of visitor use within the area and secondarily (if applicable) on providing administrative services for all or portions of the park. Management actions could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. administering daily parkwide operations 2. providing maintenance activities 3. providing interpretive and enforcement services 4. providing emergency services 5. resource stewardship 6. prioritizing, overseeing, and managing research projects 7. defining compatible uses 8. limiting public access to certain parts of this area (housing, maintenance, and administration) <p>Facilities would be appropriate in size and scale and blend with the natural and cultural landscape. Extent, size, and layout would be the minimum needed to accommodate the intended purposes. Existing and new facilities or improvements would be analyzed for ongoing need, usefulness, and impacts on resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate visitor facilities could include visitor centers, kiosks, wayside exhibits, educational spaces, and observation boardwalks. 2. Visitor support facilities could include roads, parking areas, docks, restrooms, picnic areas, campgrounds, and staff housing for required occupants. 3. Appropriate park administrative facilities could include maintenance, storage, offices, and staff housing. 4. Administrative support facilities could include roads, parking areas, docks, and restrooms.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS – BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Management Actions and Facilities
Navigation Corridor Area	<p>The purpose of this area is to allow transportation routes for vessels in existing corridors including: the Intracoastal Waterway and the Black Point, Homestead Bayfront, and Turkey Point channels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural conditions and processes could be impacted by transportation use of the area. 2. Unnatural sounds might be prevalent. 3. Resources within the navigation corridors would continue to be impacted by activities that maintain existing channels. Within the corridors, low to moderate impacts on natural conditions would be tolerated. Impacts on resources outside the corridors would be kept to an absolute minimum. 4. There could be a high level of human use and activity. 5. The existing depth, configuration, and alignment of navigational channels would not be expanded, and no new channels would be created. Channels would not exceed the following existing depths within the park: Intracoastal Waterway: 7' Black Point Channel: 4.5' Homestead Bayfront Channel: 4.5' Turkey Point Channel: 7.5' 6. Channels would be marked with signs and navigational aids to protect resources and enhance public safety. 7. The significance and vulnerability of cultural resources would be evaluated, and appropriate management actions would be determined. 	<p>The visitor experience would involve moving along a marked navigational channel by water vessel and would be perceived as linear or sequential in nature; vessels would not be permitted to stop.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate activities would be the use of channels for traveling through the park and/or gaining access into other park areas. 2. Visitor activity would be self-directed travel through or within the park at varying speeds, which could result in moderate impacts on resources. 3. Opportunities for discovery, challenge, and adventure could be low. Visitors would need to be self-reliant and possess navigational skills. 4. Visitors would benefit from learning about this area and how to navigate safely within it. 5. Special events would not be allowed in this area. 6. There could be a high probability of encountering other people in the area. Visitors could expect to hear unnatural sounds. 7. Due to congested vessel traffic at times, conditions in the navigational channels could be dangerous. Visitors might encounter commercial ships and would need to exercise caution. Visitors would navigate through a well-marked channel of a specified depth. Use could be intensively managed and regulated to ensure safe passage and resource protection. 8. Vessels of all types could be present. Vessel size would generally not be restricted except by conditions of the channel. Speed of vessels in the Intracoastal Waterway would be at a pace that is appropriate to conditions and skill levels. 9. Commercial traffic could be authorized in this area without the requirement of a permit. 	<p>Management activities would focus on resource protection and navigational aids to facilitate safe travel through and within the park. Appropriate management actions could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. restricting visitor activities 2. providing law enforcement services 3. monitoring resources impacts 4. managing these areas for transportation and public safety (there might be overlapping jurisdiction with other agencies; coordination and cooperation with other agencies would occur) 5. taking proactive measures to prevent human-caused impacts. <p>Facilities appropriate in these areas would include navigational aids and signs for resource protection and enhancing visitor safety.</p>

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS – BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Management Actions and Facilities
Resource-Based Recreation Area	<p>Natural and cultural scenes would remain largely intact.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural conditions and processes would predominate. The environment might be adapted for human use. 2. Sounds and sights of human activity might be apparent. 3. There would be tolerance for minimal resource impacts. 4. Additions to the landscape, including signs, buoys, and markers, might be used to enhance visitor experience and public safety and to protect resources. 5. The significance and vulnerability of cultural resources would be evaluated, and appropriate management actions would be determined. To permit visitor access, cultural resources might be stabilized and hardened (protecting archeological values from unauthorized artifact removal or other destructive activities). 	<p>Visitors would experience a natural setting, whether they are on the water, under the water, or on land. Providing opportunities for people to interact with the resources in this area would be important. Visitor use of this area would be resource-based recreation and education consistent with park purpose and significance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate visitor activities could include sightseeing, boating, scuba diving, snorkeling, swimming, fishing, nature watching, hiking, picnicking, camping, and visiting cultural resources. 2. There would be opportunities for challenge, adventure, and discovery. Visitors might need to use outdoor skills and be self-reliant. 3. Visitors would have opportunities to participate in self-directed interpretive activities. 4. Special events could be allowed in this area with the appropriate permit. 5. The probability of seeing or encountering others would range from low to moderate most of the time. Visitor activities might be self-directed or visitors might use interpretive services to plan their activities. 6. Occasional special events might result in high levels of visitor encounters for short periods. 7. Visitor activities might be limited to protect resources and enhance public safety. 8. Vessel type and size could be restricted to enhance resource protection and public safety and preserve the desired visitor experience. 9. Commercial services would provide appropriate visitor recreational activities that are compatible with resource protection goals and desired visitor experience. 	<p>Management actions would focus on enhancing visitor experience and safety, protecting resources, minimizing impacts from visitor and commercial use, and restoring disturbed areas. Appropriate management actions could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. determining carrying capacity considering the desired visitor experience and resource vulnerability to impact 2. managing access based on the determined carrying capacity 3. inventorying and monitoring resources 4. providing interpretation and enforcement services 5. conducting research and restoring and stabilizing resources 6. minimizing and mitigating impacts from visitor and commercial use 7. defining compatible uses <p>Facilities in this area would be small, unobtrusive, and dispersed. Facilities would provide basic visitor services, enhance visitor safety, and be compatible with resource protection goals. Facilities could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. primitive trails 2. signs and mooring buoys and navigation markers 3. interpretive exhibits 4. primitive camping and picnicking sites 5. research equipment

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS – BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Management Actions and Facilities
Primitive Area	<p>The preservation of natural and cultural resources, restoration of degraded and impacted resources, and continuation of natural processes would be the dominant goals in this area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural processes would predominate; if determined necessary and appropriate for preserving cultural resources, natural processes could be interrupted. Primitive areas would preserve and/or restore a full complement of native species. 2. Natural sounds, sights, and bluewater vistas would prevail. Panoramic viewsheds would remain unaltered. 3. There would be very low tolerance for resource degradation. 4. Evidence of human impact would be minimal or part of a cultural scene. 5. Human-caused intrusions, including visual obstructions, would be kept to an absolute minimum, except for resource protection and visitor safety purposes. 6. The significance and vulnerability of the cultural resources would be evaluated, and appropriate management actions would be determined. 	<p>Visitors would be fully immersed in nature with opportunities to experience solitude, tranquility, and closeness to nature.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate visitor activities could include boating, sightseeing, recreational fishing, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, nature observation, and hiking. 2. Visitors would be self-reliant and have maximum opportunities to experience a sense of discovery, adventure, tranquility, and solitude. Application of outdoor skills would be essential. 3. Interaction with nature would predominate, with only occasional encounters with others. There would be a sense of relative remoteness. The sights and sounds of nature would be more prevalent than those of human activities. Visitor activities would be mostly self-directed and have low resource impacts. 4. There would be some opportunities for interpretive activities. 5. Special events would not be allowed. 6. Visitor activities in these areas could be limited in the interest of protecting resources and enhancing public safety. Limitations might be short or long term. 7. Vessel type and size could be restricted for resource protection and to preserve the desired visitor experience. 8. Limited commercial services that provide appropriate visitor recreational activities might be appropriate if compatible with resource protection goals and desired visitor experience. 	<p>Management actions would focus on protecting resources, restoring disturbed areas, minimizing impacts from visitor use, and providing visitors with educational opportunities that encourage resource protection. Appropriate management actions could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. determining carrying capacity considering the desired visitor experience and the vulnerability of the resources to impacts. 2. managing access based on the determined carrying capacity. 3. inventorying and monitoring resources. 4. providing interpretation and enforcement services. 5. conducting research and restoring and stabilizing resources. 6. taking proactive measures to prevent human-caused impacts. <p>Facilities generally would not be appropriate, except when determined that they would enhance resource protection or public safety. Facilities could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. signs and other navigational aids 2. research equipment <p>(Until further research documents that mooring buoys enhance overall resource protection, mooring buoys will not be appropriate.)</p>

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	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Management Actions and Facilities
Reserve Area	<p><u>Natural Resources Reserve Area:</u> The reserve area would provide complete protection for exceptional and critical ecosystems, habitats, or processes. Natural processes occur with minimal disturbance or impacts from human use. This area would protect sensitive natural resources such as nesting and nursery areas and coral reefs. This area would be closed to visitor access permanently to permit natural processes to proceed. Research or actions aimed at monitoring natural conditions could occur.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural processes would predominate. 2. Natural land, sea, and soundscapes would predominate within the area. 3. Natural resource degradation or disturbance would not be tolerated. 4. Lasting signs of human use would not be apparent. 5. Intervention and restoration could occur to mitigate and stabilize human-caused destruction. Otherwise alterations to natural resources would not occur. 6. The significance and vulnerability of cultural resources would be evaluated, and appropriate management actions would be determined. <p><u>Cultural Resources Reserve Area:</u> The reserve area would provide complete protection for exceptional and critical cultural sites and landscapes. This area would be closed permanently to visitor access to protect site integrity. Research activities could occur.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural land, sea, and soundscapes would be maintained as much as possible. 2. Cultural resource degradation would not be tolerated. Intervention of natural processes might occur to protect cultural site integrity. 3. Evidence of historic human use that contributes to the site's cultural value would be apparent. 4. Preservation and stabilization actions might occur. 	<p><u>Natural Resources Reserve Area:</u> These areas would not be managed for visitor access, and use would be highly restricted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visitors would not be allowed into the area. Research activities might be permitted. 2. Researchers and other cooperators and personnel might enter the area for authorized purposes. Any impacts on natural processes would be minimal and temporary. 3. Visitors would benefit from the research by learning about sensitive and vulnerable resources as well as how they are studied and preserved. 4. Vessels would be restricted from the area except for administrative, emergency, or research purposes. 5. Commercial activity would not be allowed. <p><u>Cultural Resources Reserve Area:</u> These areas would not be managed for visitor access, and use would be highly restricted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visitors would not be allowed into the area. Research activities might be permitted. 2. Researchers and other cooperating personnel could enter the area for authorized purposes. Any impacts on cultural resources would be minimal and temporary. 3. Visitors would benefit from the research by learning about sensitive and vulnerable resources as well as how they are studied and preserved. 4. Vessels would be restricted from the area except for administrative, emergency, or research purposes. 5. Commercial activity would not be allowed. 	<p><u>Natural Resources Reserve Area:</u> Management actions would focus on the preservation and protection of ecosystems, habitats, and processes unique to this area. Appropriate management actions could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. intervening and restoring resources to mitigate and stabilize human-caused destruction 2. conducting research aimed at monitoring resource conditions and understanding natural processes 3. prioritizing, overseeing, and managing research projects 4. taking proactive measures to prevent human-caused impacts <p>Facilities would not be allowed. If installed, research apparatus would be minimal and unobtrusive.</p> <p><u>Cultural Resources Reserve Area:</u> Management actions would focus on preservation and protection of cultural sites and landscapes. Appropriate management actions could include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. mitigating, stabilizing, and restoring resources and collecting artifacts in imminent danger of destruction 2. conducting research aimed at monitoring resource conditions and understanding the cultural context 3. prioritizing, overseeing, and managing research projects <p>Facilities would not be allowed in this area. If installed, research apparatus would be minimal and unobtrusive.</p>

Overlays

National Park Service general management plans identify management prescription areas that define a range of resource conditions and visitor experiences. Management prescription areas are tied to specific geographic areas within the park. In addition, a general management plan may identify various overlays that address specific issues for the entire park. All overlays are managed through special regulations developed under rulemaking procedures identified in *36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 7*. Future overlays may be added using this public process as new issues arise.

An example of an overlay is the existing lobster sanctuary for Biscayne Bay. Additional overlays being considered in the general management plan process are speed limits for park waters, commercial guide fishing, and taking fish for commercial sale.

South Florida Regional Issues

The management areas described above would be applied within park boundaries. Issues outside park boundaries were raised during public scoping that need to be addressed due to their potential to affect the park's resources and visitor experiences. We heard that you are concerned about land use and planning adjacent to park boundaries and within the South Florida region. Some of the issues raised include

- providing visitor services outside park boundaries, particularly closer to Miami, that include pre-visit information in order to enhance the overall experience
- cooperating with other land and water managers in the region in order to provide an overall variety of experiences considering the entire mix of opportunities in and missions of Biscayne National Park, state parks, county parks, city parks, marinas, and other areas
- cooperating with neighbors to provide visual access to Biscayne Bay from the mangrove shoreline
- working proactively with community planners so that adjacent construction will blend with the viewshed from the Bay
- working proactively to restore water quality, including freshwater deliveries to the Bay

We would like to have your opinions regarding these issues. Please see the map and questions on the comment form (page 15) and add other issues you would like addressed.

Mail your responses to:

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER – MARGARET DELAURA, PDS
12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY
PO BOX 25287
DENVER, CO 80225-9901**

Planning Schedule

Step	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunity
1	Initiate Project The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope and issues, and customizes the planning process.	Comment on newsletter #1. Join the mailing list.
2	Identify Planning Context Based on the park's enabling legislation, the team examines WHY the park was established and reaffirms the area's mission. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public input for planning and developing draft management prescriptions.	Participate in public meetings September 19 and 20, 2001, and respond to newsletter #2.
3	Develop and Evaluate Alternatives The planning team explores WHAT the park's future should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives for its future.	Send in your comments on newsletters.
4	Prepare a Draft Document. Based on the impacts identified in the environmental impact statement and public comment, the team identifies a preferred alternative. A draft general management plan/environmental impact statement is published. The draft document describes the planning context, sets the foundation for HOW management alternatives would attain desired future conditions, and the impacts of implementing each of the alternatives.	Send in your comments on the draft plan.
5	Publish Final Document. Based on public comment, environmental analysis, and other information, the team revises the draft general management plan/environmental impact statement and distributes a final plan to the public.	Final plan distributed.
6	Implement the Approved Plan. After the record of decision is issued, when funding is available, implement the approved management plan.	

Open House Public Meetings

September 19, 3:00 - 8:00. Superintendent's talk at 4:00 and 6:30.	Keys Gate Golf and Tennis Club, 2300 Palm Drive, Homestead, FL. 305-230-0300.
September 20, 3:00 - 8:00. Superintendent's talk at 4:00 and 6:30.	Comfort Suites 3901 SW 117 th Avenue Miami, FL 305-220-3901

Comment Form

Please provide us with your ideas. If you need more space, feel free to attach additional pages to this form. Your responses will be the most helpful to us if you tell us why you like or dislike a particular item and how you would improve it. Please submit your comments by October 31, 2001.

Are the resource conditions, visitor experiences, management actions and facilities described for each of the management areas appropriate? What changes would you suggest and why?

Visitor Services/Park Administration Area:

Navigation Corridor Area:

Resource-Based Recreation Area:

Primitive Area:

Reserve Area:

Do the above management areas include all the desired conditions you would like to see in the park? What other management areas would you like the planning team to consider? Which areas would you like to be eliminated from consideration?

If you are familiar with the park, please draw the management areas as you would like to see them designated on the map on the reverse of this card.

If you are not familiar with the park, please indicate what percent of the park you would like to see designated to the management areas you would like to see in the park.

Visitor Services/Park Administration Area:

Primitive Area:

Navigation Corridor Area:

Reserve Area:

Resource-Based Recreation Area:

Should land use and planning for areas within the South Florida region take into account Biscayne National Park mission? If so, how much of the region? What do you believe should be achieved and what strategies would you suggest to move in that direction?

Which of the South Florida regional issues mentioned already are important to you? Which are not? Are there additional issues to consider and other opportunities to pursue?

What would you like to see implemented in the proposed overlays?

Speed limits:

Commercial guide fishing:

Taking fish for commercial sale:

What other overlays should we consider?

Other comments?

Your Assignment:

Please use the numbered legend below to draw and number on the map (BELOW), your choices for management areas, from most developed to most pristine.

LEGEND:

- 1 VISITOR SERVICES/PARK ADMINISTRATION AREA
- 2 NAVIGATION CORRIDOR AREA
- 3 RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION AREA
- 4 PRIMITIVE AREA
- 5 RESERVE AREA



Note: Your comments, as well as your name and address, will be available for public review. Private individuals may request that their names and addresses be withheld from the printed record by placing an X here : _____. All submissions from businesses and organizations will be available for public review in their entirety.